GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4879
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
THEFT OF BLANK PASSPORT BOOKLETS
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of blank passport booklets reported during each of the last three years from the different passport offices in the country;

(b) the number of blank passport booklets out of them recovered;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(d) whether some officials of the passport offices were found involved in these theft cases;

(e) if so, the cases in which departmental inquiry was initiated and action taken against those found guilty; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such cases?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) One case of theft of 1000 blank passport booklets was reported in 1998 at Passport Office, Ghaziabad.

(b) Of these 972 booklets were recovered.

(c) Three private persons were arrested in this regard.

(d) The complicity of any official of Passport Office Ghaziabad has not been established.

(e) On the basis of a departmental enquiry, proceedings were initiated against one official for failing to adhere to basic security precautions and not handling the keys of the strong room properly. A minor penalty was imposed on the official in May 1999.

(f) Government remains vigilant to protect the custody of blank passport booklets. Strong rooms have been provided in Passport Offices and are regularly checked and kept under the supervision of an officer.